

## **Subcommittee on the Board of Regents' Land Purchase**

The Subcommittee makes the following observations and conclusions about the South Dakota Board of Regents purchasing land in Sioux Falls for the delivery of university courses from each of the existing six universities.

1. The subcommittee gathered information from the South Dakota Board of Regents (BOR), the Sioux Falls School District, Forward Sioux Falls, and other economic development entities in the Sioux Falls area.
2. The subcommittee developed a timeline detailing the events leading up to the possible purchase of land currently owned by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the northwest quadrant of Sioux Falls:
  - a. In the early 1990's the BOR decided to unify the course and program offerings that were spread throughout the Sioux Falls area;
  - b. January 2001 - USDSU was formed and offered university courses in the joint-use building on the Southeast Technical Institute campus;
  - c. September 2004 - the Forward Sioux Falls organization was awarded a grant for a Graduate Education and Research (GEAR) Center building;
  - d. September 2004 – BOR and Sioux Falls School District began talks involving current and future space issues;
  - e. January/February 2005 – South Dakota Legislature approves the BOR 10-year Higher Education Facilities Fund (HEFF) plan, which includes a \$7.7m classroom building, and the \$2.0m GEAR Center building;
  - f. Fall/Winter 2004/Spring/Summer 2005 – Sioux Falls leadership and the BOR worked together to find a piece of land that could accommodate the GEAR Center building;
  - g. Fall 2005 – Sioux Falls leadership was no longer part of the BOR's meetings in regards to the DOT property located in NW Sioux Falls; however, talks did continue between both parties on the GEAR Center building grant and the possibility of a different site;
  - h. December 2005 – Governor, Regent Jewett, Sioux Falls Business leadership discuss DOT land as a long-term site;
  - i. December 2005- Great Plains Foundation awards grant to BOR for purchase of DOT land (contingent upon legislative approval); and
  - j. January 2006 – Governor proposes spending \$8.0M from the sale of the railroad for a classroom building on the proposed property.
3. The BOR and Sioux Falls leadership are now working together. The initial federal grant for the GEAR building is to be expended before August 2008 (construction plans must be prepared in 2006 and construction must begin no later than 2007).